(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Classical language status to Malayalam

2358. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has accorded classical language status to Kannada and Telugu recently;

(b) if so, what are the languages that are accorded "classical language" status so far and on what basis this status is being accorded;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government to accord the classical language status to Malayalam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Kannada language and Telugu language have been classified as 'classical languages' *vide* Government of India Notification No. 2-16/2004-Akademies dated 31.10.2008.

(b) So far, Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada and Telugu have been classified as "classical language".

Government has laid down the following criteria to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered for classification as "classical language":

(i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.

(ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.

(iii) The literacy tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.

(iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National Library, Kolkata

2359. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Library, Kolkata, has been granted autonomy or continues to be subordinate to her Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the statute, if any, according the autonomy highlighting its nature implied in the statute;

(c) if not, the structure of organisation entrusted with the management and governance of the affairs of the Library;

(d) whether Government had last constituted a Board of Management for National Library, Kolkata, *vide* an order in June, 2002;